

A2  
said absorbent layer is fixed with a water-soluble thickener on a prescribed region of  
said absorbent article.

sub 01  
A3 6. (Amended) The absorbent article according to claim 5, wherein said agent  
is fixed on a skin-contacting surface of said absorbent article.

A4  
10. (Amended) Skin-care agent-containing fiber comprising fiber and an  
effective amount of a skin-care agent containing substantially no water fixed on said  
fiber in a state ready to be released on contact with moisture.

Please add the following claims:

sub 02  
A5 12. An absorbent article comprising a liquid-permeable top layer, liquid  
impermeable leak proof layer and a liquid retentive absorbent layer interposed  
between said top layer and said leak proof layer, said absorbent layer containing a  
superabsorbent polymer, a main absorbing region in said top layer being provided  
with a skin-care composition consisting essentially of an agent which is released  
from said region, and dissolves or disburses in water upon contacting with a water  
content, said agent having substantially no decomposing action on said  
superabsorbent polymer.--

C3  
AS  
--13. An absorbent article comprising a liquid-permeable top layer, liquid impermeable leak proof layer and a liquid retentive absorbent layer interposed between said top layer and said leak proof layer, said absorbent layer containing a superabsorbent polymer, a main absorbing region in said top layer being provided with a skin-care composition consisting essentially of an agent which is released from said region, and dissolves or disburses in water upon contacting with a water content, and a water-soluble thickener which fixes said agent on said region, said agent having substantially no decomposing action on said superabsorbent polymer.--

--14. The skin-care agent-containing fiber according to claim 11, wherein said skin-care agent is fixed on said fiber by applying a mixture of said skin-care agent and said textile oil or 1,3-butylene glycol to the surface of said fiber followed by drying.--

### **REMARKS**

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-14 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejections in view of the amendments and remarks as set forth below.